

recognize Private First Class McQueen as a Kentucky hero who fought and died defending our sacred freedoms and honor the steadfast family members and public servants who brought him home.

McQueen was only 20 years old when, as part of Operation Dragoon, he and his platoon landed in the Rhone Valley to liberate France from its German occupiers. Facing stiff resistance and heavy fire, his unit scattered across the countryside. By the time the smoke cleared and the enemy retreated, McQueen was lost.

Two years later, the American Graves Registration Command recovered a soldier's body from a farmyard in the area where McQueen had gone missing. Local authorities could not verify the soldier's identity, so he was reburied in an anonymous grave in Normandy. Back home in Jackson County, the McQueen family prayed their lost son would be found.

Last week, those prayers were finally answered. With the help of new DNA technology, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency identified the body as Berton McQueen's. They sent him home to Jackson County, where he is now buried next to the church where he was baptized, nearly a century earlier. With bagpipes and bugles playing, an honor guard marching, and the extended McQueen family gathered together again, Private First Class Berton McQueen was finally given the hero's return he deserved.

Our Nation's military is diligent in finding and honoring its missing servicemembers. All over Kentucky and across the country, the POW/MIA Accounting Agency has reunited lost sons and daughters with their loved ones. This program offers important help to grieving families and honors our country's most sacred obligation to those who serve. The Agency's motto is "fulfilling our nation's promise," and, as the McQueen family's story demonstrates, they go to extraordinary lengths to carry out that creed.

The Lexington Herald-Leader published a comprehensive account of Private First Class Berton McQueen's life and journey in a recent article. I ask unanimous consent the article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From Lexington Herald-Leader, October 17, 2021]

'I'VE WAITED FOR THIS.' KENTUCKY WWII SOLDIER UNIDENTIFIED FOR DECADES COMES HOME

Nannie McQueen was desperate to find out what had happened to her son in World War II.

Army Pfc. Berton J. McQueen had been badly wounded by artillery fire while his unit was fighting German troops near a small town in France in November 1944.

He died at an aid station set up in a barn, and amid the chaos of war, someone buried him in a garden.

American troops didn't recover his body until after the war in Europe ended months later, and he couldn't be identified.

The Army notified McQueen's parents in Jackson County that he was listed as killed in action, but with few details and no one to bury, his mother couldn't accept it.

She wrote letters to soldiers who served with him to try to figure out what had happened to him and put advertisements in a farming magazine and other publications seeking information, said his niece, Genevieve Palm.

When her grandmother went to town, she left the door at her house unlocked so her son could get in if he came home, Palm said.

"She couldn't give up," Palm said of her grandmother.

"I can't imagine what kind of torture that would have been."

Now, Berton McQueen is home.

Based on historical research, dental records and analysis of DNA samples from Palm and other family members, officials with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency identified the body recovered from the garden in France as McQueen, according to a news release.

McQueen was accounted for in July, more than 76 years after he was killed at age 20.

He was reburied Saturday with full military honors in Jackson County, in the hillside cemetery at the Wind Cave Baptist Church. McQueen attended the small wooden church as a boy and was baptized in a creek nearby.

A bugler played "Taps," and a bagpiper played "Amazing Grace" before members of the honor guard fired a 21-gun salute and folded the flag from his casket to give to his family.

McQueen was raised on a small farm in the Wind Cave community, the youngest of seven children of John and Nancy Jane "Nannie" McQueen, said Palm, whose mother was one of Berton McQueen's sisters.

Like thousands of others who grew up on Kentucky farms in those days, McQueen moved to Indiana to find work. He was living in Connersville when he was drafted, Palm said.

McQueen was wounded fighting in Italy in February 1944, spending 11 weeks in the hospital, and was wounded again in August 1944, spending several more weeks in the hospital.

His family hoped he would come home, but McQueen wanted to finish the job. He believed that if the U.S. and allies didn't carry the fight to the Nazis in Europe, the war would come to America, said Palm, who has letters he sent to his family.

"He felt a strong duty," Palm said. "He said, 'I will come home when the rest do.'"

McQueen landed in southern France in August 1944 as part of Operation Dragoon, pushing north through the Rhone Valley to meet up with forces that had gone ashore in the massive D-Day invasion and then turn to the final assault on Germany.

McQueen saw plenty of combat but didn't write about the horror of war in his letters home because he didn't want to worry his parents, Palm said.

Instead, he wrote about the people and the beauty he saw, Palm said, though he did mention in one letter in mid-1944 that U.S. troops were driving the Germans back.

"He said, 'We have'm on the run now,'" Palm said.

But his unit ran into stiff resistance in a battle in a hilly region near the border with Germany, according to the Army's account.

As German infantry pursued his unit, McQueen was going to get more ammunition for his machine-gun platoon when he was hit by shrapnel.

One soldier later told Army investigators he helped carry McQueen to an aid station, and that when he asked later how the badly wounded man was doing, he was told McQueen had died, Palm said.

McQueen's battalion, which suffered heavy casualties, was forced to pull back and was in "disarray" for a period before regrouping, according to an account from the Army, Palm said.

It's not clear why McQueen went missing or who buried him. After German troops withdrew a few days later, U.S. troops didn't find his body.

A woman who lived on the farm later disclosed that an American soldier had been buried there. The American Graves Registration Command recovered a body in April 1946 but couldn't identify the soldier.

He was reburied under the designation X-6093 at the Normandy American Cemetery in Colleville-sur-Mer, France, until science could solve the mystery.

Palm was born 10 years after her uncle died but lived close to her grandmother and heard stories about him.

"We really grew up with that grief for her, and that loss," said Palm, a retired property manager who lives in Laurel County.

McQueen's mother died in 1972. Years later, the local bank president called Palm's mother to report there was money in an account Nannie McQueen had kept.

She had been putting money away for her son to use when he came home, Palm said.

Palm read a letter at the church Saturday from an Army buddy of McQueen's that her grandmother had contacted just before Christmas in 1945.

Louie Hughes said in his letter back to McQueen's mother that McQueen often talked of his home and his family while he was overseas, and that the two of them talked about the Bible into the night at times.

McQueen had drawn a sketch of how to get to his house in Jackson County in Hughes' Bible so he could visit after the war.

The two later got assigned to different companies, and then Hughes was captured and spent 16 "horrible months" in a German prison camp, he said, so he hadn't heard that McQueen had been killed before McQueen's mother wrote him.

He told McQueen's parents to be brave because that's what their son would have wanted. The "brave deeds of such men as Berton" were the reason "that we enjoy peace today," Hughes wrote.

Palm wishes her mother had lived to know her brother had been identified, but she died in 2008. Palm, a Christian, believes her mother and grandmother were reunited with McQueen in heaven long ago.

Family members felt new grief when the Army notified them McQueen had been accounted for but were also thankful.

"I consider it a miracle," Palm said. "My whole lifetime I've waited for something like this."

NOTICE OF A TIE VOTE UNDER S. RES. 27

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to print the following letter in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE, COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR AND PENSIONS,

Washington, DC, October 26, 2021.

To the Secretary of the Senate:

PN796, the nomination of Jose Javier Rodriguez, of Florida, to be Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training, Department of Labor, having been referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor,

and Pensions, the Committee, with a quorum present, has voted on the nomination as follows—

On the question of reporting the nomination without recommendation, 11 ayes to 11 noes.

In accordance with section 3, paragraph (1)(A) of S. Res. 27 of the 117th Congress, I hereby give notice that the Committee has not reported the nomination because of a tie vote, and ask that this notice be printed in the RECORD pursuant to the resolution.

PATTY MURRAY,
Chair.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

Hon. ROBERT MENENDEZ,
*Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 21-61, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Australia for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$985 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

JEDIDIAH P. ROYAL,
Deputy Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 21-61

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Australia.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment * \$665 million.
Other \$320 million.
Total \$985 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Twelve (12) MH-60R Multi-Mission Helicopters.

Thirty (30) T-700-GE-401C Engines (24 installed, 6 spares).

Twelve (12) APS-153(V) Multi-Mode Radars (installed).

Twelve (12) AN/AAS-44C(V) Multi-Spectral Targeting Systems (installed).

Thirty-four (34) Embedded Global Positioning System/Precise Positioning Service (GPS/PPS)/Inertial Navigation Systems (EGI) with Selective Availability/Anti-Spoofing Module (SAASM) (24 installed, 10 spares).

Twenty (20) Link 16 Multifunctional Information Distribution Systems (MIDS)—Joint Tactical Radio System (JTRS) (12 installed, 8 spares).

Twelve (12) GAU-61 Digital Rocket Launchers (aircraft provisions only).

Twelve (12) Airborne Low Frequency Sonars (ALFS) (aircraft provisions only).

Eighteen (18) AN/AAR-47 Missile Warning Systems (12 installed, 6 spares).

Eighteen (18) AN/ALE-47 Chaff and Flare Dispenser, Electronic Countermeasures (12 installed, 6 spares).

Twelve (12) AN/ALQ-210 Electronic Support Measures (ESM) Systems (installed).

Twenty-four (24) M299 Missile Launchers.

Twelve (12) GAU-21 Crew Served Guns (aircraft provisions (installed, includes aircraft adapter, ammunition bin, and other accessories).

Twelve (12) M240D Crew Served Gun Cradles (installed).

Eighteen (18) AN/ARQ-59 Hawklink Radio Terminals (12 installed, 6 spares).

Non-MDE: Also included are AN/ARC-210 RT-2036 UHF/VHF radios with Communications Security (COMSEC); AN/APX-123 Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) transponders; KIV-78; KIV-6; KOV-21; KGV-135A; Advanced Data Transfer Systems (ADTS); Airborne Low Frequency Sonars (ALFS) Training Simulators/Operational Machine Interface Assistants (ATS OMIA); spare engine containers; trade studies with industry to determine the feasibility and cost of implementing provisions for additional passenger seating and modifications to achieve enhanced crew survivability; defense services; spare and repair parts; support and test equipment; communication equipment; ferry support; publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; United States (U.S.) Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; obsolescence engineering, integration, and test activities required to ensure readiness for the production of the Australian MH-60R helicopters; and other related elements of programmatic, technical and logistics support.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (AT-P-SCO).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: AT-P-SCF, AT-P-GXO, AT-P-KOA, AT-P-KOB, AT-P-REZ.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: October 8, 2021.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Australia—MH-60R Multi-Mission Helicopters and Related Defense Services

The Government of Australia has requested to buy twelve (12) MH-60R Multi-Mission helicopters; thirty (30) T-700-GE-401C engines (24 installed, 6 spares); twelve (12) APS-153(V) Multi-Mode Radars (installed); twelve (12) AN/AAS-44C(V) Multi-Spectral Targeting Systems (installed); thirty-four (34) Embedded Global Positioning System/Precise Positioning Service (GPS/PPS)/Inertial Navigation Systems (EGI) with Selective Availability/Anti-Spoofing Module (SAASM) (24 installed, 10 spares); twenty (20) Link 16 Multifunctional Information Dis-

tribution Systems (MIDS)—Joint Tactical Radio System (JTRS) (12 installed, 8 spares); twelve (12) GAU-61 Digital Rocket Launchers (aircraft provisions only); twelve (12) Airborne Low Frequency Sonars (ALFS) (aircraft provisions only); eighteen (18) AN/AAR-47 Missile Warning Systems (12 installed, 6 spares); eighteen (18) AN/ALE-47 Chaff and Flare Dispenser, Electronic Countermeasures (12 installed, 6 spares); twelve (12) AN/ALQ-210 Electronic Support Measures (ESM) Systems (installed); twenty-four (24) M299 Missile Launchers; twelve (12) GAU-21 Crew Served Guns (aircraft provisions (installed, includes aircraft adapter, ammunition bin, and other accessories); twelve (12) M240D Crew Served Gun Cradles (installed); and eighteen (18) AN/ARQ-59 Hawklink Radio Terminals (12 installed, 6 spares). Also included are AN/ARC-210 RT-2036 UHF/VHF radios with Communications Security (COMSEC); AN/APX-123 Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) transponders; KIV-78; KIV-6; KOV-21; KGV-135A; Advanced Data Transfer Systems (ADTS); Airborne Low Frequency Sonars (ALFS) Training Simulators/Operational Machine Interface Assistants (ATS OMIA); spare engine containers; trade studies with industry to determine the feasibility and cost of implementing provisions for additional passenger seating and modifications to achieve enhanced crew survivability; defense services; spare and repair parts; support and test equipment; communication equipment; ferry support; publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; United States (U.S.) Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; obsolescence engineering, integration, and test activities required to ensure readiness for the production of the Australian MH-60R helicopters; and other related elements of programmatic, technical and logistics support. The total estimated value is \$985 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States. Australia is one of our most important allies in the Western Pacific. The strategic location of this political and economic power contributes significantly to ensuring peace and economic stability in the region. It is vital to the U.S. national interest to assist our ally in developing and maintaining a strong and ready self-defense capability.

This proposed sale will improve Australia's capability to perform anti-surface and anti-submarine warfare missions along with the ability to perform secondary missions including vertical replenishment, search and rescue, and communications relay. Australia will use the enhanced capability as a deterrent to regional threats and to strengthen its homeland defense. Australia will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal U.S. contractor will be Lockheed Martin Rotary and Mission Systems, Owego, NY. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of the proposed sale will require U.S. Government and contractor personnel to visit Australia on a temporary basis in conjunction with program technical oversight and support requirements, including program and technical reviews.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.